



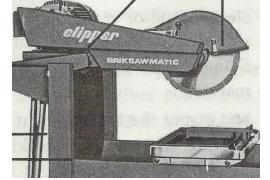
Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 695: Masonry Saws

Introduction: Cutting with a masonry saw can save time and produce cleaner cuts on block, bricks, tile, or other materials. Masonry saws come in full-size stationary or portable units. The full-sized model will cut with a dry, abrasive blade, or a diamond-tipped blade that may be cooled with water. Protect your lungs from silica exposure. Following are guidelines for safe use and care of masonry saws:

- **Make sure** to read and understand the manufacturer’s manual for the saw you will be operating. Follow all safety requirements.
- **Inspect** for any missing, loose, or damaged parts before using. Repair or replace immediately. Check that the blade is secure.
- **Check** the power cord and any other electrical wires for breaks or frays that could lead to electrical shock. Check belts for tension and frays. Adjust or replace as needed. Connect to a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- **Use** the right extension cord. The size of wire in an extension cord must be compatible with the amount of current the cord will be expected to carry. The amount of current depends on the equipment.
- **Make sure** the electric water pump is working properly before using the wet saw.
- **Check** the water tray; too little water could result in your blade overheating and being damaged.
- **Change** the water frequently to prevent build up of sludge. Drain and flush with clean water when needed and at the end of the workday. Keep all water lines clear and clean. Make sure all contaminated water is disposed of properly.
- **Make sure** the frame is grounded to prevent electrical shock. A qualified electrician should perform this task. Never touch or ground a metal object, to another close by, while the saw is running.
- **Never** stand in water. Use a wooden platform to stand on that will provide additional protection against grounding.
- **Do not** start the saw if the blade is touching the masonry to be cut. Keep the blade free until it is under full power.
- **Before cutting** any material, make certain it is laid flush in the conveyor cart or fence, and that no chips lie underneath the material. This can cause the blade to bind or kick back. If the blade binds, let the material go.
- **Use** the proper blade for the materials you are cutting. Remember to use only shatter resistant blades for dry saw operations.
- **Saw blades** must be kept clean to keep the material from moving during the cut. Never force the blade. Forcing the blade can damage, or cause it to shatter and injure the operator. Inspect the blade before each operation.
- **Remember;** at the end of the day, blades should be removed and stored to prevent accidental damage. Inspect for damage.
- **Never** use the saw to hone or clean chisel blades and other tools. This will dull the blade.
- **Diamond blades** should never be used to dry saw unless they are designed to do so. It can cause permanent damage to the blade.
- **Always** keep hands away from the cut. Never try to mark a brick or other material while it is on the saw table with the blade running. If the material is a thin cut, use scrap pieces to hold it in place, this will keep the hands from getting too close to the blade.
- **Do not** run the saw for extended periods of time to prevent overheating. If the saw overheats and throws the overload switch, wait at least five minutes before resetting to allow ample cooling time.
- **Keep** the saw clean and perform maintenance regularly. Only a qualified person should be allowed to maintenance the saw.



Personal protective equipment (PPE): Always use safety glasses or goggles (shatter proof), ear protection (ear plugs or ear muffs), and a hard hat to protect against flying debris. A face shield worn with safety glasses or goggles will give complete face protection.

- **Coveralls** or rubber outer wear (when using a wet saw) will protect the rest of the body. Keep clothes tucked in.
- **Do not** wear loose clothing, jewelry, or rings. Keep long hair tied back or tucked away so that it does not become caught in the saw.
- **Wear** a dust mask or respirator to protect the lungs while using a dry saw. Use an exhaust fan, if available, to help move dust away.
- **Heavy gloves** will protect the hands from any flying chips of masonry. Ear muffs will protect you from loud noise levels.
- **Rubber** gloves, (worn over the hands or regular gloves), will keep the hands dry while using the wet saw.

Conclusion: Remember that it is easy to become careless while working with powered equipment. Accidents can happen to the most experienced operators. Inspect the saw for defects before each use. Wear the proper PPE and follow all safety rules and manufacturers suggestions. Utilize these safety guidelines for operating masonry saws.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor’s Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.